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IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 4, and 5, cancel claims 2, 3, and 6-28, and add new claims 29-37 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A method for arranging for the transporting freight comprising the steps of:

(a) [providing freight intended for transport by a carrier having at least one carrier vehicle and a carrier control center for communicating with the carrier vehicle;] receiving a request to transport the freight;

(b) determining that [the] a carrier [vehicle] is not available to transport the freight;

(c) [providing a third party carrier having at least one third party vehicle and a third party control center for communicating with the third party vehicle;] transmitting a request for a third party to transport the freight;

(d) determining that the freight can be transported by a [the] third party vehicle of the third party carrier; and

(e) [communicating freight transportation status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center.] assigning the freight to the third party for transportation.

2. Canceled

3. Canceled

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim [3] 1 wherein said third party [vehicle] comprises a vehicle equipped with a mobile communication terminal [for communicating with the carrier control center].

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein [said communicating freight transportation status from the third party vehicle to the carrier control center is via a satellite.] said third party comprises a second carrier dispatch center.

6. - 28. Canceled

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41 ~~29~~. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein said third party comprises an individual equipped with a mobile communication terminal.

42 ~~30~~. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising reconfiguring a network management facility for allowing subsequent communications between said third party and said carrier.

43 ~~31~~. (New) The method of claim 30, further comprising reconfiguring the network management facility for preventing subsequent communications between said third party and said carrier after the freight has been delivered.

44 ~~32~~. (New) An apparatus for arranging for the transportation of freight, comprising:

a processor for receiving a request to transport freight, for determining that a carrier cannot transport the freight, for generating a request for a third party to transport the freight, and for determining that the third party can transport the freight, and for generating a message assigning the freight to the third party;

a transceiver for transmitting the request for a third party to transport the freight, for receiving a response from the third party, and for transmitting the message assigning the freight to the third party; and

a memory for storing information pertaining to the availability of carrier vehicles to transport the freight.

45 ~~33~~. (New) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the processor is further for generating an instruction to reconfigure a network facility management center to allow communications between the third party and a carrier who received the request for freight transportation.

46 ~~34~~. (New) A wireless communication device for arranging for the delivery of freight, comprising:

a receiver for receiving a request to transport freight from a carrier;

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a display alerting a user of the wireless communication device to the request to transport freight;

an input device for allowing the user to accept the request to transport freight;

a transmitter for transmitting the acceptance;

the receiver further for receiving a message indicating that the user has been selected to transport the freight.

47 35. (New) The wireless communication device of claim 34, wherein the receiver is further for receiving information pertaining to the freight to be transported.

48 36. (New) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method for arranging for the transportation of freight, said method comprising operations of:

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- (a) receiving a request to transport the freight;
 - (b) determining that a carrier is not available to transport the freight;
 - (c) transmitting a request for a third party to transport the freight;
 - (d) determining that the freight can be transported by a third party; and
 - (e) assigning the freight to the third party for transportation.

Rule 26 49 37. (New) A signal-bearing medium tangibly embodying a program of machine-readable instructions executable by a digital processing apparatus to perform a method for arranging for the transportation of freight, said method comprising operations of:

- receiving a request to transport freight via a wireless communication device;
- alerting a user of the wireless communication device to the request to transport freight;
- accepting the request to transport freight;
- transmitting the acceptance for transmitting the freight;
- receiving a message indicating that the user has been selected to transport the freight.

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